

****ATTENTION****

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Washington Department of Wildlife



Serving Washington's
wildlife and people—
now and in the
future.

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NORTHEAST WASHINGTON

WHITETAIL DEER HUNTING

Northeast Washington's strong whitetail deer population provides a variety of outstanding hunting opportunities. The area averages about 50 percent adult bucks in the overall harvest each year, but each hunter's success is measured by what kind of animal is hunted where and when. Antlerless hunting, which provides a low-pressure, high-success opportunity in good weather, is by permit only and in seasons separate from buck seasons. Check the current rules pamphlet for all season dates.

Bucks are difficult to find early in the season as dry ground and leafy trees and shrubs help them escape detection. Most of the bucks harvested in October are the more vulnerable yearlings. Later season hunting results in more adult buck harvest because they are in the peak of the rut by mid-November, and they are

usually more concentrated and easier to track due to snow. Both early and late hunting have advantages and disadvantages, though: the good early weather provides access to all areas and comfortable camping; later, the weather limits access and comfort, and hunting competition is much higher. Hunting is generally best at mid- to lower elevations. Still hunting and drives are the most popular techniques used, but stands and rattling also work.

Most of the public land in the northeast is under Colville National Forest management; maps of the area, showing the many campgrounds, are available at the ranger district office at 695 South Main in Colville, WA 99114.

The Washington Department of Natural Resources also manages land and provides some campgrounds. The Washington Department of Wildlife

manages nearly 50,000 acres of land in this area, primarily east of Colville on the Little Pend Oreille Wildlife Area, and also on the Sherman Creek Wildlife Area in Ferry County. Sherman Creek and LeClerc Creek are popular areas for late hunting and are good choices for newcomers to the northeast area.

Private lands provide some of the best deer habitat and thus some of the best hunting. Hunting private lands can be very productive, but because it is so popular, it also takes a lot of work to find a landowner who isn't already swamped with requests and who will grant permission. Private property does not have to be posted to be off-limits; it is the hunter's responsibility to learn the ownership of the land and gain landowner permission.

Deer populations are highest in the hunting units where public lands are mixed with

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private farm and woodlands. This includes GMUs 105, 108, 119, 121, and 124. Chances of getting a buck in these GMUs may be better and road access in bad weather is easier. Bucks will probably be younger however, and a lot of time may be spent trying to get permission to hunt.

Fewer but bigger bucks are available on the more mountain-

ous public lands in Pend Oreille County, particularly GMU 113 and the GMUs that follow the Stevens-Pend Oreille County boundary. Logged over areas that provide access and better visibility are popular in this heavily-timbered rugged terrain. The farther north one goes, the tougher the access, but remote areas have few hunters and usually bigger bucks.

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